



MARYLAND PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEER CORPS



Newsletter

OFFICE OF PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Fall 2008

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

John M. Colmers
Secretary of Health

Fran Phillips
*Deputy Director for
Public Health Services*

MISSION STATEMENT

The Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps is available to provide health related services via health professionals, supplementing local existing resources during emergencies or disasters.

MPVC is a registered Medical Reserve Corps with the National Association of County & City Health Officials.



The mission of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is to improve the health and safety of communities across the country by organizing and utilizing public health, medical and other volunteers.

Program Funding Support

- ✓ U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
- ✓ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

MESSAGE FROM MARK BAILEY, Maryland Professional Volunteer Coordinator

On a national level, the summer of '08 was an eventful one in the United States. Wildfires were rampant on the West Coast, floods devastated regions in the Midwest and "hurricane highway" was paved with destruction in areas along the Gulf Coast. Local and national resources were again tested. We as a nation are better prepared to respond to these events although improvement is always possible.

External support was made available to areas most impacted by the devastation. This included a small but much appreciated deployment of MPVC mental health practitioners in cooperation with the national office of the American Red Cross. This successful collaboration broke new ground for the MPVC. MPVC resources were also utilized at drive-thru flu clinics in Howard County on the 2nd of November.

The randomness of natural disasters demands that we stay prepared. Nearly 300 volunteers attended a September training and benefited from subject matter experts in the field of emergency response. Two additional sessions are planned for 2009 to ensure volunteers are kept up-to-date with information.

This office will continue to promote interest and involvement in the MPVC, and provide ongoing informational updates that might be of interest to present and potential volunteers. Feedback is always appreciated. It has been great hearing from many of you as we strive to make the MPVC one of Maryland's premier resources for its citizens.



MPVC PARTNERS

Faith-Based Community Partners

Submitted by: Angela Young, Jerry Truitt, Cheryl MacLaughlin, Pamela Jennings, Tavonya Chester, Judy Strong, Bill Dial and Charlene Perry

We welcome one of the newest member categories of the Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps (MPVC) --- Faith Based Volunteers. Experience has shown that faith communities have assumed an integral role in assisting survivors and families during the aftermath of natural disasters or other catastrophic events. People often gather at houses of worship to seek out spiritual leaders for assistance or to mobilize resources to help others in need.

Recognizing this, the Cecil, Dorchester, Kent and Talbot County Health Departments recently partnered with the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins Hospital and the Office of Preparedness and Response for a Special Project grant to train faith community members to provide Psychological First Aid. This effort increased the health departments' and the state's capacity to provide mental health support during disaster response and recovery.

This past summer, 238 participants representing 120 faith communities attended *Psychological First Aid* training where they learned to provide basic assistance to meet disaster victims' immediate needs and concerns, reduce their distress and encourage their coping skills. Each participant received a resource binder and a "Personal Safety Pack". Congratulations to the 56 individuals now registered as MPVC Faith Based Volunteers!

Mortician/Funeral Director Partners

Submitted by:
Jim Bruzdinski

Maryland State Funeral Director's Association Disaster Response Team (DRT)

The Maryland State Funeral Directors Association has trained a disaster team that is capable of handling a mass fatalities incident. The Maryland DRT can and will perform all the necessary functions required to resolve a Mass Fatality Incident, which include embalming, funeral directing, shipping, logistics, safety, security, family assistance center operation, and all necessary paperwork involved for the resolution of the incident.

This Team can only be activated by proper state authorities. An incident of this nature can only be addressed by trained, qualified, committed and dedicated volunteers working in concert as a team. This Team must continually access the most recent training and education available and be in regular contact with the Local, State and Federal agencies it will work with to achieve a good outcome.

To this end, we have partnered with the Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps in an effort to maintain a high level of professionalism relating to the task of caring for the victims of a disaster. We look forward to this new relationship with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the volunteers that make up the MPVC.

OFFICE OF PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE



The mission of the Office of Preparedness and Response is to provide expert technical guidance and leadership for DHMH as the lead for Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF 8 health and medical) to coordinate a public health emergency response in the State of Maryland.

Submitted by Chris Mathews, Preparedness Event Incident Commander, OP&R

On September 18, 2008, The Office of Preparedness and Response hosted the "Bee Prepared" Event for National Preparedness Month in the lobby of the O'Connor State Office Building. The unprecedented lunch hour event provided critical information to state employees in the event of a public health emergency.

The event was a great success thanks to our participating partners, Maryland General Hospital, The Department of Disabilities, The Department of Aging, The Department of Agriculture, The American Red Cross, Behavioral Health Disaster Services and Local Health Departments from 14 Counties. Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Secretary John Colmers presented each of them with a Governor's Proclamation declaring September as Maryland Preparedness Month and thanked them for their participation.

VOLUNTEER CORPS FACE-TO-FACE

Story submitted by Brenda Barksdale, LPN after her 15 days of deployment in Texas, October 2008.

My first volunteer experience was with Hurricane Katrina. I felt I had to do something to help these people. I contacted my local Red Cross Chapter, boarded a plane, and before I knew it, I was in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. I paired with a nurse and we ran a high medical needs shelter. It held about two hundred residents. They were the most grateful people that I had ever met. They lost their belongings, homes and some family members- but they always gave thanks to the volunteers for being there. The stories were sometimes difficult, the pain was often times great, and the devastation was overwhelming, but the appreciation was forever.

When Hurricane Ike hit, I knew I was going to Texas. I felt that if I could help one person by lending an ear, a shoulder to cry on, or to put a smile on someone's face, it would all be worth the effort.

My job was to assist with feeding, sheltering, and providing medical attention as needed. People were suddenly in a strange place, with strangers, with everything that they own in a bag. This was very difficult for many. They needed a place to call home but there were no homes. Some wanted jobs but were in an unfamiliar place with no transportation or money.

The frustration of obtaining needed medications and supplies was another issue. I did whatever I could to help. My supervisor provided me with a few certificates for eyeglasses. FEMA had a number that the pharmacist could call to refill medications. I reached out to some employers for jobs in the community, to help some of the men with earning money. I did whatever I could to help in whatever situation.



The evacuee's name is Sharon Richardson (left and Brenda on right). As you can see in the picture she is very happy-go-lucky and very thankful for all that she has received. Her home was destroyed and she had lost everything.

I accomplished that on both of my missions. I have made friendships, built lasting bonds, and was fortunate enough to be blessed with the compassion needed in so many people's time of need. I have kept in touch with shelter residents and other volunteers of both storms. I was even told by one resident "I have a two bedroom trailer, you can come stay with me anytime." Little things like this let me know that I have made a difference and it was all worth it.



"The statue was put there for a storm that occurred sometime around 1900. The picture was taken on the beach in Galveston Texas. I wanted a picture of it because to me he was asking God for help." By Brenda Barksdale



Picture above: After Hurricane Ike hit the beaches in Galveston, Texas 2008

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." John Fitzgerald Kennedy

**The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene,
the Office of Preparedness & Response
and the Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps**

Encourage you to

SAVE THE DATE

January 27, 2009

In Cambridge, Maryland

for the

**Volunteer Disaster Readiness and Response
Orientation and Training**

**Check our Web site in mid December
for registration and CEU information**

<http://bioterrorism.dhmf.state.md.us/volunteer.htm>



Topics to be covered:

- Volunteer Legal and Liability Issues
- Vulnerable Populations
- Behavioral and Mental Health Considerations for Victims and Responders
- Chemical Laboratory Emergency Preparedness and Response Capabilities
- NIMS/ICS-National Incident Management System/Incident Command System
- Strategic National Stockpile and Cities Readiness Initiative
- Bugs and Drugs--Biologic Terrorist Agents and Treatment
- Personal and Community Preparedness



The Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps is the State Medical Reserve Corps

This training is open to all volunteers affiliated with or interested in joining the MPVC or volunteers affiliated with other emergency and disaster response efforts. It is intended to provide volunteers with a broad knowledge of the issues and response mechanisms relating to disaster events so they will be better prepared to deal with challenges when deployed.

MPVC UPDATES

BEHIND THE SCENE:

MPVC Involvements:

• MPVC in Texas

Mental Health volunteers were deployed to Texas in mid October to supplement American Red Cross (ARC) mental health services in areas devastated by Hurricane Ike. The ARC was most appreciative of the MPVC's response. More detailed information on this effort will be provided in the next newsletter.

• Howard Co. Flu Clinic

The Howard County Health Department sponsored two drive-thru flu clinics on November 2. The MPVC was approached to provide health practitioners to help dispense the flu vaccination. Response was terrific and volunteers supported this worthy effort.

"I have been in contact via phone with Patricia Schwartz at the Howard County Health Department and have volunteered my time and requested permission to bring 10 senior nursing students from Georgetown University who will be graduating in December to assist with the vaccinations. I will supervise the students as well as give vaccinations. I also volunteered last year for the drive through clinic in Howard County." **Jean Trotter, SN.RN.C**

Thanks Jean and so many more of you who helped with the Flu Clinic and who were deployed to Texas.

**October was.....
National Pharmacist Month
Thank you
Pharmacy Volunteers!**



CURRENT VOLUNTEER COUNTS

•Board of Physicians	656
•Board of Nursing	3077
•Board of Pharmacy	677
•Board of Veterinarians.....	263
•Board of Dentistry	72
•Board of Social Work	695
•Board of Professional Counselors	215
•Board of Psychology	113
•Psychiatric Physicians	25
•Psychiatric Nurses	34
•Morticians/Funeral Directors.....	4
•Faith-Based	56
TOTAL = 5887	

NICE HEARING FROM YOU!

Feedback from participants at the September 23rd MPVC orientation and training, Volunteer Disaster Readiness and Response.

- * "First and foremost I want to thank you and everyone for all your wonderful work. Yesterday was wonderful and educationally a success." **Anne Witter, RN**
- * "I am writing to let you know that I enjoyed the training held on 9/23. One thing that I would have liked to have had happen is to have some time set a side to hear from a few on the teams that responded to the call for Katrina. I know that I was asked to go and was unable to make it, as were several others at my table. We would have found it very informative to have heard a bit of what we would have experienced had we gone. Thank you, again. The event was coordinated very well, the food was very good, and the day went off without a hitch!" **Laurie Campbell, Psychologist**

General comments:

- * Provide hands on interactive sessions covering common and uncommon scenarios in the field.
- * Include a panel of previously deployed emergency responders to share their stories and experiences.
- * Improve the audio visuals and audio devices for the people sitting in the back of the room.
- * Provide more mental health information and preparation for disasters for the volunteers.

Attendance for a successful day! Total=258

DDS	3	Psych	10	Pharm	28		
Faith-Based	7	Psych RN	3	LCPC	22	Vet	10
MD/PA	11	RN/LPN	82	SW	52	Other	
30 New recruited volunteers! 31							

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Thank you Arnie Honkofsky for volunteering to be our photographer for our September 18th Preparedness Day Event during National Preparedness Month. Arnie also volunteered his time to photograph our MPVCs for their badges at our orientation and training on September 23rd .

Mr. Honkofsky is a member of the Greater Baltimore Medical Center Photography Club (Digi Docs). He is a Pharmacy MPVC and member of the Pharmacy Preparedness Committee.

We value his talent and appreciate his time in supporting our needs for the program.

If you have a talent and are interested in helping out in some way in our program, please call Chris Plummer at 410-767-0959 or cplummer@dnhm.state.md.us

**"What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us;
what we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal." Albert Pike**



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REMINDERS AND QUICK NOTES!



- ✓ **CONTACT INFO**— Send us updates on your contact information, e-mail and address changes. We are getting lots of returned e-mails which means you aren't hearing from us.
- ✓ **BADGES**— Please take the opportunity when you are at a training and when there is a photographer available to update your badge, especially if your badge is 3 or more years old. You can also send me a JPEG digital photo by e-mail and mail/fax your driver's license for identity purposes.
cplummer@dhmh.state.md.us Fax : 410-333-5000
- ✓ **MPVC APPLICATION PROCESS**— Please send your updated applications to your licensing board NOT to us and mark it UPDATE at the top so they know you are not a new applicant.
Thank you so much!
- ✓ **MPVC PROGRAM VOLUNTEERS**— Each Professional Board is still in need of volunteer assistance for data entry, filing, and MPVC contact information updates. If interested please contact Chris, cplummer@dhmh.state.md.us, 410-767-0959. We will give you volunteer hours and recognition!
- ✓ **VOLUNTEER VETERINARY CORPS ONLY**— Please remember to complete the survey that will take only 15 or 20 minutes. For questions contact, Dr. Casper, jarucasper@comcast.net or 443-394-1449
http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=_2fU3XIJW7M2h7EA8sxOa6FA_3d_3d
- ✓ **TRAINING ON YOUR OWN**— Check out MEMA for emergency and disaster training, NIMS and CIS courses. When registering make it known that you are a Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps Member from the DhMH, Office of Preparedness and Response. <http://www.mema.state.md.us/MEMA/index.jsp>
Another nice MPVC feedback: "This is one of those things that I take great pride in doing (volunteering to serve if needed) yet, as we all do, hope that it is never needed." **John Steinberg, MD**

"Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving." W.T. Purkiser

